

3 January 1975

DDI-24-75

MEMORANDUM FOR: [REDACTED]

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NIO/SP

FROM : Deputy Director for Intelligence  
SUBJECT : Request for Intelligence Reports

1. We have reviewed the request from Charles Sorrels for an in-depth analysis of foreign government reactions to the Nixon/Brezhnev Summit in May 1972 and the recent Vladivostok meetings, as well as your own expansion of the question on the need for the Community to do more work on perceptions. I agree with you that these are important and proper questions for the Intelligence Community to answer. I am sure you appreciate how complex and difficult this type of analysis would be. If we are to do the work on gauging foreign perceptions described in Sorrels' outline, it cannot be regarded as a one-time project, but must be a continuing program.

2. My immediate problem is that this Directorate simply does not have the resources that would be required to undertake such a program. As you pointed out in your memorandum, most of the components in the Directorate that would have large inputs into such analysis are already heavily committed. I do have some suggestions, however, that will enable us to be at least partially responsive to the Sorrels' request and set in motion procedures that will enable the Community to be more responsive to this kind of question. As you know, there is not, to our knowledge, any large body of existing research on foreign perceptions or even a consensus on which measures are the best indicators of how a government perceives external phenomenon, or even of the methodologies most suited to derive these measures. We have tried without

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a great deal of success, for example, to produce a study on [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Our experience tells us that some very simple things need to be done before the Community will be in a position to produce any meaningful analysis on perceptions. These include such basic activities as:

- Assembling a complete bibliography and summary of existing publications and research on foreign perceptions.
- Some considered recommendations on the methodologies and approaches which would be likely to yield meaningful results for a policymaker.
- A considered judgment of the resources that would be required to effect adequate coverage and consolidation of data on foreign perceptions.

3. We at this moment could not take on such a full-fledged task. This is the sort of problem, however, that the Joint Analytical Support Center was established to study. I think that the long-term solutions would be for the Joint Analytical Support Center to be tasked with this problem.

4. In the short term, there are a few things we can do to attempt to be responsive to Mr. Sorrels' request. I would be STATSPEC willing to task [REDACTED] reactions to the Vladivostok meetings and then, as a test case, ask OPR and/or OCI to survey other sources with a view to amplifying and expanding [REDACTED] This would, I am sure, be useful to Mr. Sorrels and also give us some further insight into how far we can go on this problem over the short term. OPR has

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recently initiated a study of Western Europe attitudes toward detente which will examine the perceptions of the French, [redacted] from three separate dimensions-- military, economic, and political. Although not directly related to the Sorrels' request, I am sure this project will answer some of his questions.

5. I have also alerted all production components to the growing consumer interest in more reporting on foreign perceptions with a view to including as much of this reporting as we can in our established research and reporting programs.

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EDWARD W. PROCTOR  
Deputy Director for Intelligence

ADDI/PVWalsh/tb (3 Jan 75)

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